

Message Text

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ACTION PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 CCO-00 DOE-15
SOE-02 OMB-01 HA-05 AF-10 /111 W
-----004392 132142Z/14

O 132011Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2039
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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FOR PA AND PA/PRESS, DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR
DR. BREZEZINSKI AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT - PRESS REMARKS

REF: STATE 167242-C

1. FOLLOWING IS JOINT PRESS BRIEFING BY FOREIGN
MINISTER GROMYKO AND SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE AT THE
END OF THEIR TALKS IN GENEVA, THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1978:

MR. GROMYKO: DURING THESE TWO DAYS A THOROUGH EXCHANGE
OF VIEWS WAS HELD ON SOME QUESTIONS OF INTEREST BOTH TO
THE SOVIET UNION AND TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
PRIMARY ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO THE QUESTIONS RELATING
TO THE PREPARATION OF A NEW AGREEMENT ON THE LIMITATION
OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. BOTH SIDES CONSIDER THAT
THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THESE QUESTIONS WAS USEFUL
AND PROVIDES A BASIS FOR FURTHER BRINGING THE POSITIONS
OF THE SIDES ON THE OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS CLOSER
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TOGETHER. THE DISCUSSION OF THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE
CONTINUED. AMONG OTHERS, THERE WERE DISCUSSED THE
QUESTION OF THE COMPLETE AND GENERAL BAN ON NUCLEAR
WEAPONS TESTS, THE PROBLEM OF THE MIDDLE EAST
SETTLEMENT AND SOME QUESTIONS OF BI-LATERAL RELATIONS.

MR. VANCE: THANK YOU, MR. MINISTER. AS THE FOREIGN

MINISTER HAS INDICATED, NEW IDEAS WERE PUT FORWARD BY BOTH SIDES. THEY WERE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH BETWEEN US. THE CONVERSATIONS, AS THE FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATED, WERE USEFUL, AND WILL SERVE AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER NARROWING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US. WE ALSO COVERED A NUMBER OF OTHER SUBJECTS AS HE HAS INDICATED, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING OUR DISCUSSIONS AND WILL BE KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER.

QUESTION: WHEN DO YOU EXPECT THE NEXT MEETING TO BE ON THE SUBJECT OF SALT?

MR. VANCE: WE WILL BE IN TOUCH ON THE SUBJECT OF SALT PROBABLY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE TWO OF US WILL BE MEETING, BUT WE WILL BE COMMUNICATING WITH EACH OTHER ON THAT SUBJECT.

QUESTION: WHEN WILL YOU MEET YOURSELVES NEXT?

MR. GROMYKO: WELL, AT ANY RATE WE WILL BE MEETING SOMETIME IN THE FALL, SOMETIME DURING THE WORK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, COULD IT BE SAID THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE HELPED TO REDUCE THAT AGGRAVATION THAT YOU TALKED ABOUT IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS?

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MR. VANCE: THE TALKS, AS I INDICATED EARLIER, HAVE BEEN USEFUL, AND I THINK THEY HAVE SERVED A GOOD PURPOSE IN HELPING TO NARROW--OR PROVIDING A BASIS FOR HELPING TO NARROW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK THERE IS A BASIS FOR MAKING A SALT AGREEMENT, OR COMPLETING ONE, DURING THIS YEAR?

MR. VANCE: WE BOTH HOPE THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE A SOUND SALT AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD BE IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH OUR NATIONS AND IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORLD THIS YEAR. AND WE WILL BOTH STRIVE...

MR. GROMYKO: THE SOONER THE BETTER.

MR. VANCE: RIGHT, THE SOONER THE BETTER.

QUESTION: MR. MINISTER, WOULD PROGRESS HAVE BEEN EASIER WERE THERE NOT THIS DISTRACTION OF CONTROVERSY OVER TRIALS IN THE SOVIET UNION? DID IT GET IN YOUR WAY--THAT CONTROVERSY?

MR. GROMYKO: THAT IS A QUESTION WHICH IS WITHIN THE INTERNAL COMPETENCE OF THE SOVIET UNION. AND I HAVE NO INTENTION OF DISCUSSING IT WITH ANYONE, EVEN WITH YOU. AND I TRUST YOU WILL UNDERSTAND ME CORRECTLY. I WILL TAKE NO OFFENSE.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, DID YOU DISCUSS AFRICA AT ALL?

MR. VANCE: JUST TOUCHED ON IT LIGHTLY IN PASSING.
NOT REALLY.

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SOE-02 OMB-01 HA-05 AF-10 /111 W

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QUESTION: IS THAT BECAUSE YOU THINK THE SITUATION IN AFRICA HAS CHANGED, BECAUSE ABOUT A MONTH AGO YOU WERE QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT IT?

MR. VANCE: WELL, WE HAVE DISCUSSED AFRICA ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS AND EXCHANGED VIEWS ON IT BOTH BETWEEN THE TWO OF US AND IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER OFFICIALS.

QUESTION: MR. VANCE, BY SAYING THAT YOU'VE MADE SOME PROGRESS THAT IS USEFUL FOR PROVIDING A BASIS FOR NARROWING THE GAP, DOES THAT MEAN THAT IT'S A FACT THAT OF THE REMAINING TOUGH ISSUES YOU STILL HAVEN'T RESOLVED EITHER OF THOSE?

MR. VANCE: I WOULD SAY THE ANSWER IS YES. WE HAVE NOT RESOLVED EITHER, BUT I THINK WHAT WE SAID WE HAVE, BY THESE CONVERSATIONS, PROVIDED A BASIS FOR, HOPEFULLY,

NARROWING THE REMAINING GAP.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, DOES THE PROSPECT FOR A TREATY
SEEM TO BE MOVING BACKWARDS ALL THE TIME? ARE YOU STILL
THINKING OF A THREE-YEAR PROTOCOL OR IS THAT KIND OF
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BLENDING INTO THE LIFE OF THE TREATY AT THIS POINT?

MR. VANCE: WELL, I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO DETAILS. I
HAVE SAID ALL ALONG THAT I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO
DETAILS OF ANY OF THESE THINGS WHICH WE ARE NEGOTIATING
AND I AM JUST GOING TO ADHERE TO THAT.

QUESTION: IS THE OCTOBER 1 COMMUNIQUE STILL STANDING?

MR. GROMYKO: WHOM ARE YOU ASKING?

QUESTIONER: YOU.

MR. GROMYKO: FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW THAT STATEMENT IS
STILL VALID AND I GUESS THE SECRETARY OF STATE WILL
GIVE HIS ANSWER FOR THE UNITED STATES.

MR. VANCE: YES, FROM OUR STANDPOINT IT IS STILL VALID.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, YOU SAID THAT YOU HAVE
NARROWED THE DIFFERENCES OR THAT IT HAS BEEN USEFUL
FOR NARROWING THE DIFFERENCES...

MR. VANCE: PROVIDING A BASIS FOR NARROWING THE
DIFFERENCES.

QUESTION: COULD YOU SAY, SIR, YOU HAVE NARROWED THE
DIFFERENCES AT ALL CONCERNING THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE
CONCERNING THE TWO COUNTRIES--NOT SPECIFICALLY RELATING
TO SALT--BUT GENERALLY ANY IMPROVEMENT IN THE
RELATIONS WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IN THE LAST
FEW MONTHS?

MR. VANCE: THERE ARE STILL CLEARLY DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN US ON CERTAIN ISSUES. I THINK ALWAYS, THOUGH,
IT IS USEFUL TO HAVE A CHANCE TO SIT DOWN AND HAVE A
FACE-TO-FACE DISCUSSION ON A VARIETY OF ISSUES INCLUDING
ANY WHICH EITHER OF US WISH TO RAISE. I FIND IT
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HELPFUL AND USEFUL, AND I HOPE THAT THE FOREIGN
MINISTER DOES TOO.

MR. GROMYKO: WELL, I WOULD SAY, JUST BY ADDING TO WHAT
THE SECRETARY HAS SAID, IT IS ABSOLUTELY TRUE THAT

THERE ARE DIFFERENCES IN OUR POLICIES. BUT IF THERE IS A DESIRE AND THE WILL TO NARROW DOWN AND ELIMINATE THOSE DIFFERENCES, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY TO DO SO. AND THE BUILDING OF PEACE AND OF FURTHER DETENTE IS CERTAINLY WORTH THE EFFORT EXPENDED ON THEM.

QUESTION: IN THAT CONNECTION, SIR, DID YOU DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF A SUMMIT MEETING, AND CAN YOU COMMENT ON WHETHER YOU THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA?

MR. GROMYKO: WELL, WE DID NOT DISCUSS THAT QUESTION AS SUCH. BUT THE STATEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE BY BOTH THE ONE AND THE OTHER SIDE ON THAT SCORE ARE WELL KNOWN. A MEETING UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS IS POSSIBLE. 'CONDITIONS' IS TOO STRONG--UNDER CERTAIN 'CIRCUMSTANCES'.

QUESTION: COULD YOU TELL US WHAT THEY MIGHT BE, MR. MINISTER? WHAT CONDITIONS DO YOU FEEL WOULD...

MR. GROMYKO: I WOULD NOT LIKE TO SPECIFY.

QUESTION: MR. GROMYKO, DID YOU AND THE SECRETARY DISCUSS ANY KIND OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS THAT OUR COUNTRY MIGHT APPLY AGAINST YOUR COUNTRY IF...

MR. GROMYKO: I GUESS THE SECRETARY WILL AGREE IF I SAY THAT WE DISCUSSED NO SUCH QUESTION.

MR. VANCE: WE DISCUSSED NO SUCH QUESTION.

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QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, HAS THE DECISION BEEN MADE ON THE SALE OF COMPUTERS TO THE SOVIET UNION?

MR. VANCE: NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE.

QUESTION: WHAT PROGRESS WAS MADE ON A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN?

MR. VANCE: WE REVIEWED THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN WITH THE HEADS OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS, AND HAD A CHANCE TO PUT QUESTIONS TO THE TWO SIDES. NO SPECIFIC NEW DECISIONS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT WAS TAKEN AS A RESULT OF OUR CONVERSATIONS, BUT IT WAS HELPFUL TO HAVE A CHANCE TO FIND OUT WHERE THE REMAINING DIFFERENCES ARE AND WHAT THE POSSIBILITIES ARE OF RESOLVING THEM.

QUESTION: IS THAT TREATY TIED TO THE COMPLETION OF THE SALT II AGREEMENT SO THAT IT WILL NOT BE FINISHED BEFORE SALT II?

MR. GROMYKO: FROM OUR STANDPOINT THERE IS NO DIRECT TIE BETWEEN THEM AND WE ARE, IN FACT, AGAINST SUCH A UNCLASSIFIED

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POSITION. EACH OF THESE QUESTIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ON ITS MERITS AND I GUESS THE SECRETARY CAN SAY WHAT THE U.S. POSITION IS.

MR. VANCE: I HAVE NO DIFFERENCE ON THAT.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, IT IS NOT CLEAR TO ME--HAVE YOU MADE PROGRESS ON A MATTER OF ATMOSPHERICS, OR HAVE YOU MADE SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS? I DON'T HEAR ANY TALK OF BRICK BY BRICK THIS TIME. HAVE YOU LAID ANY BRICKS? ARE THERE ANY, EVEN PARTS OF ISSUES THAT YOU CAN CHECK OFF AS COMPLETED?

MR. VANCE: I SAID THAT NEW IDEAS WERE PUT FORWARD BY BOTH SIDES AND I ALSO SAID AS DID THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT WE THOUGHT THAT AS A RESULT OF THOSE EXCHANGES THAT WE HAD HAD A USEFUL SESSION WHICH PROVIDED A BASIS FOR NARROWING THE DIFFERENCES.

QUESTION: MR. MINISTER, SECRETARY VANCE PASSED A MESSAGE TO YOU TO PASS ON TO PRESIDENT BRESHNEV FROM PRESIDENT CARTER. DID YOU ALREADY TRANSMIT A REPLY, OR DO YOU INTEND TO TRANSMIT A REPLY FROM PRESIDENT BRESHNEV?

MR. GROMYKO: MUST I ANSWER THAT QUESTION? I HAVE GOT TO
KEEP AT LEAST ONE LITTLE SECRET TO MYSELF. AT LEAST A
SECRET OF A PROCEDURAL NATURE. LET ME JUST, TURNING TO
SALT, SAY, AND I TRUST THE SECRETARY WILL AGREE, THAT ON
BOTH SIDES THERE WERE SOME NEW IDEAS EXPRESSED. BUT
SOMETIMES TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS FROM SUCH IDEAS IT
REQUIRES THE SUN TO RISE MORE THAN ONCE--MORE THAN
TWICE.

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QUESTION: MR. MINISTER, I UNDERSTAND THAT NEW IDEAS WERE
EXPRESSED BUT WERE ANY NEW IDEAS ACCEPTED? THAT IS
THE DISTINCTION THAT ISN'T CLEAR TO ME. I KNOW YOU
SPOKE TO EACH OTHER, BUT DID ANYBODY CONVINCE ANYBODY
OF ANYTHING?

MR. GROMYKO: WELL, YOU KNOW DECISIONS ARE NOT TAKEN
WITH THE SUDDENNESS OF A CLOUDBURST, AND YOU KNOW
HOW MUCH TIME HAS ELAPSED SINCE VLADIVOSTOK. FOR
INSTANCE, SO SOME OF THESE THINGS TAKE TIME BEFORE
DECISIONS CAN BE MADE, BUT IF THERE IS INTEREST IN
RESOLVING THE ISSUE, IF THERE IS DESIRE, IT CAN BE DONE.
BY VIRTUE OF DISCUSSION, OF COURSE, YOU ARE NOT AN
EASY NEGOTIATOR. YOU DO NOT MIND?

MR. VANCE: NO.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, HAVE YOU MADE A BASIS HERE,
DO YOU FEEL, FOR ENDING THE DETERIORATION IN U.S.-
SOVIET RELATIONS AND BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR
IMPROVING OUR TIES?

MR. VANCE: WELL, I HOPE THAT OUR DISCUSSIONS CAN
HELP LEAD US TOWARDS A BETTERING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN
OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OUR
COUNTRIES DO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS AND ANYTHING THAT
EITHER OF US CAN DO TO MOVE US ALONG THAT PATH WOULD BE
VERY CONSTRUCTIVE.

QUESTION: MR. GROMYKO, DO YOU (UNINTELLIGIBLE).

MR. GROMYKO: I HOPE YOU WILL WRITE OBJECTIVELY ABOUT
THIS PRESS CONFERENCE. END OF BRIEFING.VANDEN HEUVAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA10793
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780287-1116
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780765/aaaaccyf.tel
Line Count: 378
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c4ba7e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 167242
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2024699
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S VISIT - PRESS REMARKS
TAGS: OVIP, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: STATE BONN
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c4ba7e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014